



Chapter 55 Update

The OPI is working in partnership with Region 17 Comprehensive Center to update ARM Chapter 55 on the 10-year revision cycle. Representing the OPI are Julie Murgel (Chief Operating Officer), Nathan Miller (Accreditation Program Director), and Tristen Loveridge (Project Manager). After engaging in a research phase, two working groups, **Quality School Task Force** and the **Negotiated Rule Making Committee** have been formed to complete the review and revision phase. Below are details and key dates for the two working groups.

Standards of accreditation are outlined in the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 20-7-101: Standards of accreditation for all schools must be adopted by the board of public education upon the recommendations of the superintendent of public instruction.

1. Quality School Taskforce:

The task force will be charged with making recommendations for ARM Chapter 55 revisions to the superintendent of public instruction and the negotiated rule committee. The task force orientation meeting was held on January 11, 2022, via Zoom and a two day in-person kick off meeting in Helena on January 25th and 26th. It is anticipated that the task force will need to meet at least seven times before April 2022 in order to complete its work. The scheduled is as follows:

- Tuesday, February 8 at 11am to 1pm (Via Zoom)
- Tuesday, February 22 at 11 am to 1 pm (Via Zoom)
- March 8 Helena in person (10 am to 5pm) & March 9 (8:00am to 2:00pm)
- Tuesday, March 22 at 11 am to 1pm (Via Zoom)
- Tuesday April 5 at 11 am to 1 pm (Via Zoom)
- Thursday, April 14 (10 am to 5 pm) & Friday, April 15 (8 am to 2 pm) in person in Helena

Critical documents that the Task Force must create to meet its charge:

- Develop a field survey document (To be deployed in February)
- Write a Concept Memorandum (current rule, proposed red-lined rule, proposed conceptual changes, rationale)

School Quality Task Force Members:

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| • Billi Taylor | Harrison K-12 Schools | District Superintendent |
| • Daniel Lee | University of Montana | Associate Professor |
| • David Pafford | Noxon Public Schools | Board Chairperson |
| • Emily Dean | Montana School Board Association | Director of Advocacy |
| • Gary Lusin | Bozeman Public Schools | Board Chairperson |
| • Gayle Venturelli | Anaconda Public Schools | Board Chairperson |
| • Heather Hoyer | Great Falls Public Schools | Assistant Superintendent 7- 12 |
| • Heather Jarrett | Reed Point Public Schools | District Superintendent |
| • Janelle Beers | MT Small Schools Alliance | Executive Director |
| • Jon Konen | Corvallis K-12 Schools | District Superintendent |
| • Tony Warren | Turner Public Schools | District Superintendent and Principal |

3. Proposed Timeline for Revisions to ARM 55 (Shared as information item at BPE on 11/18/21)

Research	Revisions to ARM	Negotiated Rule Making Committee	Board of Public Education	Education Interim Committee	Board of Public Education	Implementation
November 2020 – April 2021 OPI Internal Work	November 2021 – April 2022 OPI Work	January – June 2022	July 2022 Proposed Amendments & Economic Impact	September 2022	MAPA Process	July 2023
		Facilitator: Dr. Murgel, Nathan Miller				

4. Communication:

- Meeting minutes, zoom links, and agendas, task force members can be found on top left of the OPI main webpage at <https://opi.mt.gov/>
 - Quality Task Force
 - Negotiated Rule Making Committee Members
- Stakeholders can attend the meetings via zoom.
- Public comments will be taken at the end of each meeting. Written public comment may be submitted to tristen.belnap@mt.gov and will be shared with the taskforce members and recorded in the meeting minutes. The public comment time frame will be published on the agenda, with a three minute limit per comment. Taskforce and Committee members will not respond or ask questions during public comment.